

1. Hog prices vary for many reasons. Prices are usually closely related to supply and demand. Sometimes, farmers produce more pigs which then usually decreases the price. Sometimes, demand changes because of consumer preferences – maybe a new product was developed or maybe one of the national food chains introduced a popular new pork product. Export markets can also impact pork prices. Therefore the economies of other countries impact their ability to purchase Missouri pork.
2. In 1998, the price per one hundred pounds of hog was \$32.00. Therefore the price of one pound of hog would be 32 cents. (\$32 divided by 100 pounds)
3. Students may create a bar graph to compare the price that farmers receive for live hogs to the price of pork products in the grocery store. You may use the 1998 price, or if you know a hog farmer, you might ask what the most current price for market hogs is. Students will need to locate the prices for pork products such as pork chops and bacon. They might use newspaper ads or look in the grocery store. This activity provides an opportunity to discuss the price difference between what the farmer gets for the hog versus what we pay in the store. Why is this difference necessary? Who all are involved in getting the hog from the farm to the grocery store?

As students read some of the pages, it may be desirable to help them create a vocabulary list for better understanding. Words that might be included are: agriculture, rural, population, meat packing, livestock, inventory, stomach, ruminant, graze, hay, pasture, genetics, boar, sow, consumer, opposite, just to name a few.

Call or write to request the national Ag in the Classroom newsletter "NOTES." It's a great resource to find out what is going on with integrating agriculture into the classroom in all 50 states!

**United States Department of Agriculture
Ag in the Classroom
4309-S 1400 Independence Avenue South
Washington, DC 20250-0991
(202) 720-7925
www.agclassroom.org/**

Questions or comments regarding Show-Me Agriculture are welcome. Please contact:

**Marla Young
Missouri Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 630
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
(573) 751-2670 phone
(573) 751-1784 fax
Marla_Young@mail.mda.state.mo.us
www.mda.state.mo.us/k.htm**

Additional Resources:

Diane Olson
Missouri Farm Bureau Federation
Ag in the Classroom Program
P.O. Box 658
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
(573) 893-1400
e-mail: proed@computerland.net
www.mofb.org/aginclass.html
Call or write for more information on:
Credit courses for educators
Minigrant program
Various resources

**For more information:
Missouri Beef Industry Council
www.mobeeff.org**

**Pork4Kids National Pork Producers Council
www.pork4kids.com**

**USDA for Kids
www.usda.gov/news/usdakids/index.htm/**

**This issue of Show-Me Agriculture is supported by:
the Missouri Beef Industry Council
Farm Credit Services of Missouri and
the Missouri Department of Agriculture.**

The publication is developed and written by Dr. Lyndon Irwin and Barbara Irwin, experienced educators and educational materials developers from Southwest Missouri State University and has been classroom tested. Design, layout and illustrations ©2000 Carla Steck. Teachers may reproduce any pages for use with their students in the classroom.

CLOSE TO HOME

Have specific questions about agriculture in your area?

Check these two sources to locate personnel in your county who can offer a direct link to your local agricultural industry!

Missouri Farm Bureau county office directory: www.mofb.org//countyinfo.html

Missouri Soil and Water Conservation District office directory: www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/staff.html

Who do you call to locate a cattle or hog producer near you? Click on www.mda.state.mo.us/c2g.htm for a directory of 53 Missouri commodity organizations covering everything from alpacas to walnuts!

Looking Ahead

For a listing of Missouri's pumpkin farms, retail and wholesale, including recipes, a pumpkin word find, pumpkin quiz, as well as tips for carving and decorating, e-mail Tammy_Bruckerhoff@mail.mda.state.mo.us to receive a copy of Missouri's Pumpkin Directory.

We work for you!

Missouri Department of Agriculture: www.mda.state.mo.us

Missouri Department of Natural Resources Kids Stuff: www.dnr.state.mo.us/kids/htm

State of Missouri Kids Page: www.gov.state.mo.us/kids